

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	
	:	
Vijay Bhagavath et al.	:	Parent Case Information:
	:	
Cont. of Serial No.: 09/577,642	:	Art Unit: 2614
	:	
Cont. Filed: 4/13/2004	:	Examiner: Michael Hoye
	:	
FOR: Network-Based Service to Provide	:	
ON-Demand Video Summaries of	:	
Television Programs	:	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the attached continuation patent application, please enter the following amendment to the specification and claims.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 6 of this Preliminary Amendment.

The Abstract is amended on page 12 of this Preliminary Amendment

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 with the following:

In the illustrative summaries of FIG. 2, markers P1, P2, P3, ... segment the program. An audio summary 201 is created resulting in audio summaries 0 to S3, and s# to S5. The video portion is reduced to snapshots or still pictures 203 with each still picture related to a particular program segment. The snapshot from position P2 in the program is used during the summary interval from S1 to S2. The use of still images and full motion images may be interspersed as desired. This option is illustrated in FIG. 3 where the video summaries 303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 comprise still images and full motion images of the basic programming 301. Full motion images are interspersed with still images. An audio summary component 300 is also shown.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 9 with the following:

FIG. 4 illustrates an example of one-way video hyperlinks. A user begins by viewing a summary and selecting the link function during the summary segment 405. Control passes to the beginning of the corresponding program segment 415. When that program segment completes, control continues with the remaining program segments. Other summary segments are shown by way of illustration in FIG. 4 as segments 404, 406, 407 and 408. Further, other program segments are also illustrated as program segments 414, 416, 417 and 418.

Please add the following new paragraph after page 7, line 24:

FIG. 5 further shows by way of illustration additional summary segment 504 and program segments 514, 516 and 518.

Please add the following paragraph after page 8, line 8:

FIG. 6 further illustrates segments such as summary segment 604, 606 and 608 and program segment 614.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 11, line 6 with the following:

A viewer exercises control, in one embodiment, by interaction with a set top box (STB) or with a video summary server (VSS) by means of an interactive menu such as illustrated in the screen display 702 of FIG. 7. Here the list of summaries 704 in one example of the invention may be supplied over a channel used exclusively (i.e., an S channel) for this purpose. In the illustrative menu the view may select summaries related to the listed programs by entering the number associated with that summary in the summary id box 706 by a remote or other means. The menu 804 shown in the screen display 802 of FIG. 8 provides for summaries to recover material lost due to interrupted viewing of a program. Interrupted viewing occurs when a viewer is interrupted in his viewing (i.e. called away from the television receiver). If a viewer wishes to subsequently view a summary of missed programming content or view the current program, a selection may be entered by entering the appropriate control number in the option id box by a remote or other means. This process may be facilitated by use of a dedicated I channel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 5 as follows:

If the decision of block 2021 determines that a stored summary is being transmitted, a subsequent instruction of block 2057 sets I equal to the index of the current summary segment. An inquiry is initiated to determine if the I-th program segment is stored in the STB for cable reception or in the VSS for xDSL reception. If the segment is stored, as determined by block 2059 the flow process proceeds to instruction block 2119. If the segment is not stored, an inquiry of block 2061 inquires if the program has been previously broadcast. If ~~it is not~~ the program has been previously broadcast, a dialog box #2 is transmitted to the viewer, as per box 2062, which indicates to the viewer that the program has been previously broadcast but has not been recorded. If the program was not previously broadcast, an inquiry of block 2063 inquires if it is presently being broadcast. If it is being broadcast, the instructions of block 2071 switch the viewer to that program channel and the flow returns to start. If it is not being broadcast, a query of block 2073 asks if the program is schedule for future broadcast. If it is so scheduled, a dialog box #3 is presented to the viewer, as per block 2075, so indicating that the program is scheduled for future broadcast and makes an interactive offer to record it. If the program is not schedule for future broadcast, another dialog box #4 is presented to the viewer, as per box 2076, indicating that the program is not recorded and is not schedule for future broadcast. In both previous instances, the flow returns to start. The program schedule 1002 in FIG. 10 is used to obtain the information about the schedule of a particular program. This information includes the unique ids that identify the program and its summaries.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 21, line 8 with the following paragraph:

A unique feature of the process is the allowance of summary generation during actual live event programming. The summarization process is schematically illustrated in ~~the~~ FIG. 13 and involves the active monitoring of the program by an editor 1306. The editor 1306 may be a live person or an apparatus programmed to perform the editing process. As shown, the Live program 1300 is recorded by camera and microphone 1301 and cast into a form (i.e., digital television signal) suitable for transmission by modulation and broadcast equipment 1302. The program is transmitted by a program channel, via a POP, to an STB or VSS 1303 for application to a television receiver 1304.

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) A method of providing summaries of programming to a recipient, the method comprising:

dividing a received program into program segments;

summarizing and storing each program segment into a corresponding summary segment;

generating metadata files for delimiting a beginning and an end of summary segments and program segments; and

supplying the summary segments in lieu of program segments on demand of the recipient.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising generating indexing information for facilitating links between the programming segments and the summary segments.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the program is received via a broadband wired access link.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the program is received according to the MPEG-2 standard.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising:

accessing the summary segments by setting timing marks in the program to define summaries.

37. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising accessing by linking via use of a one-way video hyperlink.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising accessing by linking via use of a two-way video hyperlink.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising activating a link is by a single step action.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein activating a link is performed by a single step action that is a step of pushing a button on a remote controller.

41. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein accessing the summary segments includes setting position marks in the program to define summaries.

42. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein storing the summary segments uses a storage medium located at a user location.

43. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein storing the summary segments uses a storage medium integrated with a delivery network.

44. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein accessing by linking by use of a two-way hyperlink includes a viewer viewing a summary segment and selecting a link function during that summary segment whereby control passes to a beginning of a corresponding program segment; and

passing control at a completion of the corresponding program segment to a beginning of a next summary segment.

45. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein accessing by linking by use of a two-way hyperlink includes a viewer viewing a program segment and selecting a link function during the program segment whereby control passes a beginning of a corresponding summary segment; and

passing control at a completion of the corresponding summary segment to a beginning of a next program segment.

46. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising interrupting delivery of a program in response to an interrupt command delivered over an interrupt channel I.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising recovering a summary of missed programming due to the interruption in delivery in response to a resume command supplied over the I channel.

48. (New) In the method of claim 47, wherein interacting with a control for providing a missed/interrupted program is by means of a screen display responsive to a remote.

49. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising providing programming control, via a program channel P, including a screen display responsive to an interactive control of the user.

50. (New) A method of facilitating selection and delivery of summaries of programming provided to recipients, the method comprising:

dividing the programming into program segments using program index markers;

generating summary segments of parts of the program segments and generating summary index markers corresponding to the programming index markers;

generating metadata files associated with a summary channel for delimiting

a beginning and an end of segments in the summary channel and program channel and including indexing information for facilitating links between the program segments and the summary segments, wherein the metadata files are used to deliver summary segments to the recipient.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

selecting a summary segment by activating a link between the programming segment and the summary segment by utilizing a metadata file included with the summary channel; and

transmitting the selected summary segment and associated metadata to the recipient via the summary channel.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising including the metadata file within a data stream included in a program stream according to MPEG-2 standards.

53. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising including user data with each group of pictures corresponding to program segments.

54. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising activating a link connection by a single physical command.

55. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising including in the step of generating summary segments a step of dynamically generating summaries of live programming in real-time by dynamic editing software.

56. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising constructing the metadata file in XML language to define the message.

57. (New) The method of claim 50, whereby the step of:

selecting by activating a link utilizes a one-way link.

58. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein selecting by activating a link utilizes a two-way link.

59. (New) A system for delivering summaries of programming to a recipient, the system comprising:

means for dividing a received program into program segments;

means summarizing and storing each program segment into a corresponding summary segment;

means for generating metadata files for delimiting a beginning and an end of summary segments and program segments; and

means for supplying the summary segments in lieu of program segments on demand of the recipient.

60. (New) The delivery system of claim 59, further comprising:

means for storing the summary segments, the means for storing being located integral to transmission media of a public network by which programming is delivered.

61. (New) The delivery system of claim 59 wherein the means for storing is located in a STB at a co-location with a recipient of the programming.

62. (New) The delivery system of claim 59, further comprising:

means for interacting with the user that enables the user to select summaries, including a screen displaying permitting user entry of controls.

63. (New) The delivery system of claim 59, further comprising:

a two-way link control allowing a user to control summary segment and program segment selection while starting from a program segment and summary segment respectively.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

A network-based device allows customers to receive television programming and to view summaries of the programming. A method of providing the summaries comprises: dividing a received program into program segments each identified by index marks, summarizing each program segment into summary segments identified by similar index marks, generating metadata files for delimiting a beginning and an end of summary segments and program segments, storing the summary segments and accessing the summary segments to supply the summary segments in lieu of program segments upon demand.

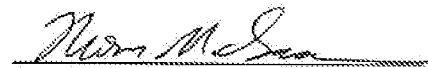
REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested. Claims 1 - 31 are cancelled and new claims 32 - 63 are added.

Applicants note that it is believed that the new claims include a limitation related to the generation of metadata which the Examiner noted the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/14/04


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